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Services Division

Committee on European Satellites

(EuSat Committee Meeting - 17th Meeting - 1330 20 June 1956)

Present:

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The topic under discussion in the meeting was "Agriculture in the European Satellites". [REDACTED], M/AG, who has been studying this subject intensively for a number of years was the guest speaker. He stated that as late as 1953 the pre-war level of agricultural production had not been reached and output was substantially below plan goals in most of the post-war years. A primary reason for the relatively poor results in this economic sector is, of course, that heavy emphasis has been placed on industrialization with resulting drain on the agricultural labor force. In 1954 agricultural output increased somewhat over the previous year, and 1955 was a comparatively good year. Various causal factors underlie the improvement in these latter years but it is very difficult to specify which of the factors was primarily responsible for the increased production. [REDACTED] did not believe the incentives introduced in late 1953 (increased prices received, decreased prices paid, reduction in delivery quotas, new services to agriculture, etc.) were responsible for the better showing in 1954 but felt that they were influential in some degree in 1955. Future output will probably reflect intensive rather than extensive development of agriculture, and fertilizers will undoubtedly play an increasingly important role.

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Considerable attention was focused on trends in socialization of agriculture. About one third of EuSat agricultural land is now socialized, most of this fraction being collectivized while a small portion is under state operation. Two-thirds of the agricultural land is still under private ownership. The proportions of total acreage represented by socialized and private operation, however, vary greatly among the individual satellites. While privately owned farms presently constitute a major part of total EuSat acreage, this segment has been shrinking. The efforts to socialize the sector, however, have not, in recent years, proceeded as rapidly as formerly.


Highly influential in the promotion of socialization of agriculture are the political cadres attached to the Motor Tractor Stations. The MTS has become an extremely important factor in EuSat agriculture

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not only in providing mechanized equipment to socialized and private farms but also in fostering expansion of collective and state farms.

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, M/EP, will be the speaker on 27 June. He is well qualified to review some of the principal trends and problems in EuSat electric power industry. Members are urged to assemble promptly on Wednesday at 1330 in room 2125 M.

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Chairman

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